

Message Text

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47

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

SP-02 DODE-00 PM-03 EUR-08 /042 W

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R 151345Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3658

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1831

LIMDIS

EO 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PGOV, PINS, PINT, MZ

SUBJECT: MACHEL'S NO-SHOW FOR TAZARA MEETING OF FRONT LINE
PRESIDENTS AT LUSAKA

1. SERIOUS DOMESTIC PROBLEMS INCLUDING THREATS ON HIS LIFE
IS REASON GIVEN BY BRITISH WHY MOZAMBIQUE PRESIDENT MACHEL
DID NOT RPT NOT JOIN PRESIDENTS KAUNDA, NYERERE, KHAMA, AND
MOBUTO IN LUSAKA JULY 13-15 FOR TAZARA CEREMONY IN WHICH
CHINESE VICE PREMIER SUN CHIEN TURNED OVER RAILROAD TO
TANZANIA AND ZAMBIA.

2. UK HIGH COMMISSIONER MILES TOLD ME BRITISH HAVE RELIABLE
REPORT FROM ONE OF THEIR SECURITY OFFICERS STATIONED IN MALAWI
WHO HAS CLOSE CONNECTIONS INTO MOZAMBIQUE THAT PRESIDENT MACHEL
HAS HAD FOUR ATTACKS ON HIS LIFE, INCLUDING SHOOTING DOWN OF
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HELICOPTER WHICH WAS SUPPOSED TO BE CARRYING HIM, BUT WAS NOT.

MACHEL REPORTEDLY HAS NOW BUILT UP A PERSONAL BODYGUARD FORCE
NUMBERING SEVERAL HUNDRED MEN.

3. ACCORDING TO SAME BRITISH SOURCE MACHEL GENUINELY FEARED
A COUP OR TAKEOVER WERE HE TO HAVE LEFT COUNTRY EITHER FOR
(A) OAU MEETING IN MAURITIUS WHERE HE WANTED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE
OF PLATFORM TO ADVANCE HIS VIEWS ON LIBERATION OF RHODESIA OR
(B) ZAMBIA FHEGQ BRITISH CONTEND MACHEL WOULD HAVE USED OCCASION
TO SIDE WITH NYERERE AGAINST KAUNDA IN PRESSING STRONG CASE
FOR MILITARY FORCE IN SOLVING PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.

4. BRITISH REPORT ADDS THAT SITUATION IN NORTHERN MOZAMBIQUE
BORDERS ON CHAOTIC BECAUSE OF OPPOSITION FROM MALSONDE TRIBE.

5. COMMENT. WE WOULD WELCOME MAPUTO'S VIEWS ON WHETHER MACHEL'S
DOMESTIC SECURITY SITUATION IS NOW INDEED SO SERIOUS AS TO KEEP
HIM TIED TO HOME BASE. IT WAS OUR IMPRESSION MACHEL LEFT
COUNTRY TO VISIT TANZANIA FOR SABA-SABA DAY JULY 7. DID HE INDEED
LEAVE COUNTRY THEN? IF SO, BRITISH APPARENTLY NOT AWARE OF THIS.

6. ALSO WE INCLINED TO QUESTION BRITISH VIEW THAT TANZANIA
IRREVOCABLY TIED TO MOZAMBIQUE IN SUPPORT OF ARMED STRUGGLE
IN RHODESIA. QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN RAISED ABOUT EFFICACY OF
THIRD FORCE AS ULTIMATE POLITICAL ALTERNATIVE TO DISUNITED ANC
AND THERE HAVE BEEN HINTS THAT NYERERE IS ALSO HAVING SECOND
THOUGHTS. DAR IS IN BEST POSITION TO COMMENT ON THIS, BUT WE
MAY BE GETTING PLAYBACK HERE FROM TAZARA MEETING OF KAUNDA AND
NYERERE WHICH WILL HELP US TEST THIS IDEA.
WILKOWSKI

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